

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of Claim 13, if rewritten in independent form. Claim 13 has now been so rewritten, so the allowance and passage to issue of Claim 13 are respectfully requested.

Claims 4-9 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4007841 to Seipel. Claim 4, as now amended, positively recites an equipment support stand on an underground mining machine, and that the stand includes a base adapted to stand on a surface of a machine, the surface having an aperture therein with a width; and securing means for releasably securing the base to the surface; the securing means comprising a plurality of clamps which incorporate a hook formation wider than the surface aperture width, the hook formation being able to pass through the aperture in the surface of the machine and hook beneath the surface to thereby rigidly fix the support stand to the surface.

The Office Action stated that in Seipel

There is a plurality of clamps (34', 35') for releasably securing the base to the surface, the clamps having a hook formation (formed by the lower end of 35' in conjunction with 34') adapted to pass through an aperture in the surface of a machine and hook beneath the surface to rigidly fix the stand to the surface.

Applicant's arguments filed June 25, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive with respect to claims 4-9 and 11. Applicant argues that Seipel fails to disclose a hook formation. However,

in its broadest definition, a hook is defined as "anything that catches". - Modern Language Association (MLA): "hook." Dictionary.com Unabridged (v 1.1). Random House, Inc. 03 Sep. 2007. Seipel discloses the bottom of the bolt 35', which contains clamping members (34') for "catching" the wire rods 18. The members (34') could be passed through apertures in the surface of a machine to hook beneath the surface and fix the support stand to the surface.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

As noted in the last Office Action, only the member 35 is adapted to pass through an aperture in the surface of a machine. But the last Office Action also notes that the hook formation includes the member 35 and the plate 34. Member 35 and plate 34 together form the hook formation, but the member 35 and plate 34 together are not able to pass through the aperture in the surface of the machine and hook beneath the surface to thereby rigidly fix the support stand to the surface. However, Claim 4 specifically includes the limitation that the hook formation passes through the aperture. The hook formation of Seipel cannot pass through the aperture.

For the above reason, the allowance and passage to issue of Claim 4, and Claims 5-9 and 11 that depend there from, are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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